depending upon traffic potential and availability of resources. The projects undertaken at airports located in Madhya Pradesh are—

(1) Expansion of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores and construction of boundary wall at a cost of Rs. 2.87 crores have been completed at Bhopal airport. There is a proposal to extend the runway to 7500 feet subject to availability of land.

(2) A new terminal building with all modern facilities has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 7.92 crores at Indore airport. Extension, strengthening and recarpetting works of runway and apron have also been done at a cost of Rs. 9.05 crores.

(3) Strengthening and extension of runway to 6500 feet at a cost of Rs. 11.76 crores, construction of boundary wall at a cost of Rs. 2.68 crores and installation of Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range/Distance Measuring Equipment [DVOR/DME], Precision Approach Path Indicator [PAPI] at a cost of Rs. 1.78 crores have been completed at Jabalpur airport. Works on construction of a new terminal building on city side at a cost of Rs. 7.46 crores has commenced.

(4) At Khajuraho Airport, there are plans for extention of runway to 7500 feet, and expansion and modification of terminal building in the first phase.

Equity stake in Air India

166. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited the Emirates, a Dubai based group to take a fresh look at the possible acquisition of equity stake in Air India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the consortium of Tata Singapore Airlines and the Hinduja Group have completed formalities and have submitted the technical bids for taking over the Air India's management; and

(c) if so, what are the terms of different parties showing their interest in the take over of management of Air India?

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THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The bidders interested in acquiring equity stake in Air India have completed the due diligence exercise and study of Data Room Documents.

(c) The initial draft Agreements were given to the prospective bidders only for eliciting their comments/reactions. However, the terms of the Agreements are determined in accordance with the Government's policy priorities, national interest and security concerns.

Handing over of group handling services to private players

167. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has recently been taken to hand over the ground handling services at international airports to new foreign players including a Dubai-based company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the trade unions have presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister vehemently opposing this decision on the ground that it is purely based on commercial considerations ignoring national security interests; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to stay its implementation and allot the work to Air India which is already offering the ground handling services to 46 foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Subsequent to the notification of the new Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, Airports Authority of India have initiated the process of selection of companies for providing ground handling services in a competitive and efficient manner at international airports. According to policy on Airport Infrastructure and the terms of Tender, companies having upto 74% foreign equity are eligible.

(b) and (c) One trade Union which is not recognised by the